PRIME FARMLAND
Ramsey County, North Dakota

Prime farmland is one of several kinds of important farmland defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is of major importance in meeting the Nation's short– and long–range needs for food and fiber. Because the supply of high–quality farmland is limited, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes that responsible levels of government, as well as individuals, should encourage and facilitate the wise use of our Nation's prime farmland.

Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pastureland, forestland, or other land, but it is not urban or built–up land or water areas. The soil qualities, growing season, and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. It is permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 0 to 6 percent. More detailed information about the criteria for prime farmland is available at the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A recent trend in land use in some parts of the survey area has been the loss of some prime farmland to industrial and urban uses. The loss of prime farmland to other uses puts pressure on marginal lands, which generally are more erodible, droughty, and less productive and cannot be easily cultivated.

The map units in the survey area that are considered prime farmland are listed in the following table. This list does not constitute a recommendation for a particular land use. On some soils included in the list, measures that overcome a hazard or limitation, such as flooding, wetness, and droughtiness, are needed. Onsite evaluation is needed to determine whether or not the hazard or limitation has been overcome by corrective measures. The extent of each listed map unit is shown in the "Acres and Proportionate Extent of Soils" table. The location is shown on the detailed soil maps. The soil qualities that affect use and management are described in other tables in this document."

PRIME FARMLAND--Continued
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Map symbol	Mapunit name	Farmland Classification
F101	Hamerly–wyard loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F142	Svea loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F143	Svea–barnes loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F143B	Barnes–svea loams, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F144B	Barnes–buse loams, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F166	Hamerly–barnes loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F167B	Balaton–wyard loams, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F180	Bottineau loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F180B	Bottineau loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F250	Divide loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F251	Divide loam, loamy substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F375	Embden loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F430	Bearden silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F432	Glyndon silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F481	Overly silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F482	Great bend–overly silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F482B	Great bend–overly silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F731B	Swenoda fine sandy loam, 0 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
F2	Tonka silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
F6	Vallers loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
F45	Colvin silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
F100	Hamerly–tonka complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
F410	Fargo silty clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
F411	Fargo–hegne silty clays, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
F412	Hegne silty clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
F521	Lowe loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
F546	Lowe loam, saline, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained